

Message Text

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ACTION OFA-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-05

AGR-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 CIEP-01

COME-00 DLOS-04 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05

FMC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-03 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 TRSY-02 /126 W
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R 221656Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2716

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL HALIFAX

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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TAGS: ICNAF, OCON, EFIS, IT, US, CA

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES (ICNAF)

REF: STATE 193300

SUMMARY. DCM, ECMIN AND EMBOFF HAVE CALLED ON HIGH-LEVEL MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) AND MINISTRY MERCHANT MARINE (MMM) OFFICIALS TO PRESENT US CONCERNS RE ICNAF SITUATION AND TO REQUEST GOI SUPPORT FOR USG POSITION AT SEPTEMBER SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING AT MONTREAL. AIDE-MEMOIRE LEFT AT BOTH MINISTRIES. GOI'S PRIMARY INTEREST IN US ATLANTIC COAST FISHERIES IS SQUID. IF ITALIAN INTEREST IN SQUID CAN BE ACCOMMODATED, EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI WOULD SUPPORT USG AT MONTREAL. END SUMMARY.

1. PURSUANT REFTTEL, DCM AND ECMIN CALLED ON MFA DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS RICCIULLI, HIGHEST RANKING MFA OFFICIAL AVAILABLE DURING AUGUST VACATION PERIOD, ON AUGUST 19 TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING ICNAF SPECIAL MEETING IN MONTREAL. DCM AND ECMIN DESCRIBED USG POSITION, REQUESTED GOI SUPPORT, AND LEFT AIDE-MEMOIRE. RICCIULLI HAD NO COMMENTS BUT PROMISED GOI WOULD STUDY SITUATION CAREFULLY.

2. AS FOLLOW UP, EMBOFF CALLED ON MMM DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MARITIME FISHERIES DE LEON AND MMM ICNAF REP BARADA ON AUGUST 21, MAKING DETAILED PRESENTATION OF USG POSITION AND LEAVING COPY OF AIDE-MEMOIRE AS INSTRUCTED PARA (3) REFTTEL. MMM REPS SAID GOI "SYMPATHETIC" TO US PROBLEMS AND USG POSITION AND HOPED USG WAS EQUALLY UNDERSTANDING OF ITALIAN SITUATION IN US ATLANTIC COAST FISHERIES.

3. DE LEON AND BARADA EMPHASIZED THAT UNIFORM PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN NATIONAL SPECIES QUOTAS WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE EQUITABLE SINCE, ONCE NATIONAL QUOTA FOR A PARTICULAR SPECIES FALLS BELOW CERTAIN LEVEL, IT NO LONGER PAYS TO FISH. ITALY, AS NEWCOMER TO AREA AND WITH SMALL QUOTAS, WOULD BE UNDULYPENALIZED BY ACROSS-THE-BOARD PERCENTAGE REDUCTION IN NATIONAL QUOTAS AND WOULD HAVE TO ABANDON FISHING FOR CERTAIN SPECIES. MOREOVER, IT HAS NOT RPT NOT BEEN ITALIAN FISHERMEN WHO WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR DEPELETION OF FISH STOCKS OFF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US ATLANTIC COAST.

4. MMM INCLINED TO BELIEVE US PROPOSAL FOR OVERALL QUOTA OF 550,000 METRIC TONS (MT) UNNECESSARILY RESTRICTIVE AND NOT RPT NOT SUPPORTED BY SCIENTISTS' REPORT, WHICH SUGGESTS BIOMASS CAN SUSTAIN 650,000 MT ANNUAL CATCH. HOWEVER, AS TECHNICAL MINISTRY RESPONSIBLE FOR OCEAN FISHERIES, MMM IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER EVIDENCE WHICH WOULD SUPPORT QUOTA LESS

THAN 650,000 MT.

5. ACCORDING DE LEON AND BARADA, SCIENTISTS' REPORT STATES THAT SQUID NOT RPT NOT A DEPLETED SPECIES IN AREA OF CONCERN TO US. GOI THEREFORE SEES NO SCIENTIFIC BASIS FOR REDUCTION OF SQUID QUOTA BELOW RECOMMENDED 74,000 MT. SQUID IS MOST IMPORTANT SPECIES FOR ITALIAN FISHERMEN. DE LEON EMPHASIZED THAT BY-CATCH IN FISHING FOR SQUID (LOLIGO) IS SMALL SINCE THIS SPECIES, WHICH IS TYPE OF SQUID PREFERRED BY ITALIANS, IS USUALLY FOUND ALONE IN COMPACT MASS. THEY IMPLIED GOI MIGHT BE PREPARED ACCEPT OVERALL QUOTA OF LESS THAN 650,000 MT IF ARRANGEMENT CAN BE MADE TO MAINTAIN SQUID QUOTA AT AGREED LEVEL.

6. EMBOFF REMINDED MMM REPS THAT ISSUE HAS HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS IN US AND THAT SOLUTION UNLIKELY BE FOUND UNLESS THESE POLITICAL FACTORS ADEQUATELY CONSIDERED. DE LEON AND BARADA INDICATED THEY WOULD CONSULT WITH MFA BEFORE FORMULATING ITALIAN POSITION FOR SEPTEMBER SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING. THEY REQUESTED ANOTHER MEETING WITH EMBASSY REPS ABOUT SEPTEMBER 10, AFTER MFA AND MMM HAVE HAD TIME TO REVIEW USG POSITION AND WASHINGTON AGENCIES HAVE HAD TIME TO REFLECT ON ITALIAN CONCERNS.

7. IN ADDITION TO ABOVE REPRESENTATIONS, AMBASSADOR PLANS RAISE ISSUE WITH MFA SECRETARY GENERAL MANZINI WITHIN NEXT FEW DAYS.

8. COMMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES GOI UNLIKELY TO SUPPORT USG POSITION AT SPECIAL ICNAF MEETING UNLESS SOME FORMULA CAN BE FOUND WHICH SATISFIES ITALIAN INTEREST IN SQUID. ITALIAN INTEREST IN MAINTAINING "MINIMUM ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE" QUOTAS FOR CERTAIN SPECIES APPEARS TO BE SECONDARY, BUT NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INSIGNIFICANT, PROBLEM. GOI ALSO HAS INTEREST IN REENTERING COD FISHERIES IN AREAS 3 AND 4.

9. ACTION REQUESTED. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON PROBLEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO GOI (PARAS 3-5 ABOVE) NOT LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 10. VOLPE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
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